

Lightformer Shooutout
Part II Softboxes 2013

VISUAL PURSUIT



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After the first lightformer shootout many people asked about the new Hensel softboxes, mainly the „GRAND“-series of deep octaform boxes attracted a lot of interest.

We took this as starting point to create a second part of the lightformer shootout, this time dedicated to the complete new line of softboxes that Hensel introduced in 2013.

The setup is basically the same as in the first shootout, with just different cameras and lenses. Due to their enormous power setting range we were able to shoot everything with the new Hensel Expert D 1000 compact rockets.

The set is built like this:
We hung up a gray backdrop in the Visual Pursuit Studios, because gray shows best gradual shadows and contrast. The roll is 272cm / 107“ wide and we hung it with the top ending at a height of 270cm/approx 106“. The model‘s position is 5ft away from the backdrop which in turn is approximately 50cm/24“ away from the back wall due to room requirements of the tripod legs. The red marks on wall and floor are 50cm/24“ apart. The lightformer is always positioned with it‘s front edge 2,5m/5ft 7“ away from the model and it‘s center on the same level as the forehead of our model.The distance between front edge of light former and back wall is around 5m/15ft. The positon slightly out of lens axis allows to judge nose shadow and light/shadow transition in general.
The whole scene is recorded with four cameras from different angles.

The power setting was adjusted for every lightformer so that a correct exposure was obtained at f=8,0. For the first lightformer shootout we used a Gossen Variosix flash meter.We replaced it for this turn with the new Gossen/Hensel Strobe Master. The main new feature is a built-in radio trigger compatible with Hensel Strobe Wizard Plus, speeding up work a lot. Additional meter readings were taken at the right and left edge of the backdrop at a height of 150cm/~60“ above ground. This gives an impression of the falloff to the edges of the light beam.

The power that was needed to achieve f=8,0 on the model ist stated for every lightformer. This offers a basis for calculation according to your personal wishes for depth of field and room conditions. One f-stop more means doubling power and vice versa.



Neutral balance on all cameras was set to factory preset „daylight“ (sun symbol) picture style „neutral“. All images are JPEG OOC, except for scaling there was no postprocessing involved.

The pictures en detail:
1) The effect of the lightformer shown on a portrait. Canon EOS 5D Mk3 with EF 4,0/70-200mm L at 200mm focal length. Distance from model to camera 9ft. ISO 100, f=8,0.Distance from model to front edge of lightformer 250cm/7ft7“.

2) The effect of the lightformer shown on a full length figure. Canon EOS 5D Mk2 with EF 4.0/24-105 mm USM IS L at 50 mm focal length. Distance from camera to model 11ft. ISO 100, f=8.

3) The set from above. The sharpness, edges and spread of the shadow behind the model can be judged pretty good. Canon EOS 1D MkII with EF 4,0/17-40mm L at 17 mm focal length. Distance from Model to camera 15ft. ISO 100, f=7,1.

4) The set from above left. The edges of the light beam are clearly visible and the amount of stray light that the lightformer produces can be estimated. Canon EOS 450D with EF 3,5-4,5/10-22mm at 10 mm focal length. Distance from camera to model 18ft. ISO 100, f=8.

5) Same as image 4, with an added basic exposure by a Hensel EH Pro Mini 3000 head attached to a Hensel Tria 2400SF power pack bounced over the ceiling. This basic exposure alone would have been sufficient for f=4. This is two stops below main and shows the setup parts that would otherwise get no light. Also here are the power values that this lightformer required in order to achieve f=8 on the model and the meter readings from the left and right edges of the backdrop.

6) A picture of the lightformer, attached to a Hensel Expert D 500 compact head. It is only for display purposes, the exposures were done with a Hensel Expert D 1000 compact head.

We hope that this compilation will be helpful in choosing your light equipment.

Michael Quack and Team, Düsseldorf, Germany.

Hensel softbox 30 x 40 cm, front diffusor only (max 300W pilot light)



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 500 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+7/10

Hensel softbox 30 x 40 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle (max 300W pilot light)



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 659 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+7/10

Hensel softbox 60 x 80 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 500 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+7/10

Hensel softbox 60 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 406 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0 + 7/10 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel softbox 60 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 435 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel Softbox 90 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 500 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6+1/10 ❸ f= 5,6+7/10

Hensel Softbox 120 x 180 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 467 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+8/10

Hensel Softbox 60 x 60 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 467 Ws
❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel Softbox 100 x 100 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 406 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel Stripbox 30 x 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 574 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel Stripbox 30 x 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 574 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+7/10 ❸ f= 5,6+5/10

Hensel Stripbox 30 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 616 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+9/10 ❸ f= 5,6+5/10

Hensel Stripbox 30 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 659 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+6/10 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel Stripbox 30 x 180 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 659 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+4/10

Hensel Stripbox 30 x 180 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 758 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+9/10 ❸ f= 5,6+8/10

Aurora Asymmetric Softbox 75 x 150 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Aurora Asymmetric Softbox 75 x 150 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal



Hensel Master PM 80 cm, white



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 406 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+4/10

Hensel parabolic umbrella Master PXL, white



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 330 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+6/10 ❸ f= 5,6+5/10

Hensel parabolic umbrella Master PXL, silver



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 406 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+9/10 ❸ f= 5,6+6/10

Hensel parabolic umbrella Master PXL, silver, with diffusor cover



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 574 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+8/10

Hensel Octabox 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 467 Ws
❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+4/10

Hensel Octabox 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 406 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+4/10

Hensel Octabox 150 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 467 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+4/10

Hensel Octabox 200 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 406 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+7/10

Hensel Grand 90 deep octaform softbox 90 cm, inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 88 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+4/10 ❸ f= 2,8+1/10

Hensel Grand 90 deep octaform softbox 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 467 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+6/10 ❸ f= 5,6+1/10

Hensel Grand 120 deep octaform softbox 120 cm, inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 177 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6+2/10 ❸ f= 5,6+5/10

Hensel Grand 120 deep octaform softbox, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 467 Ws
❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 5,6+7/10

Hensel Grand 190 deep octaform softbox 190 cm, no diffusors



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 77 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6 ❸ f= 2,8+8/10

Hensel Grand 190 deep octaform softbox 190 cm, inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 95 Ws

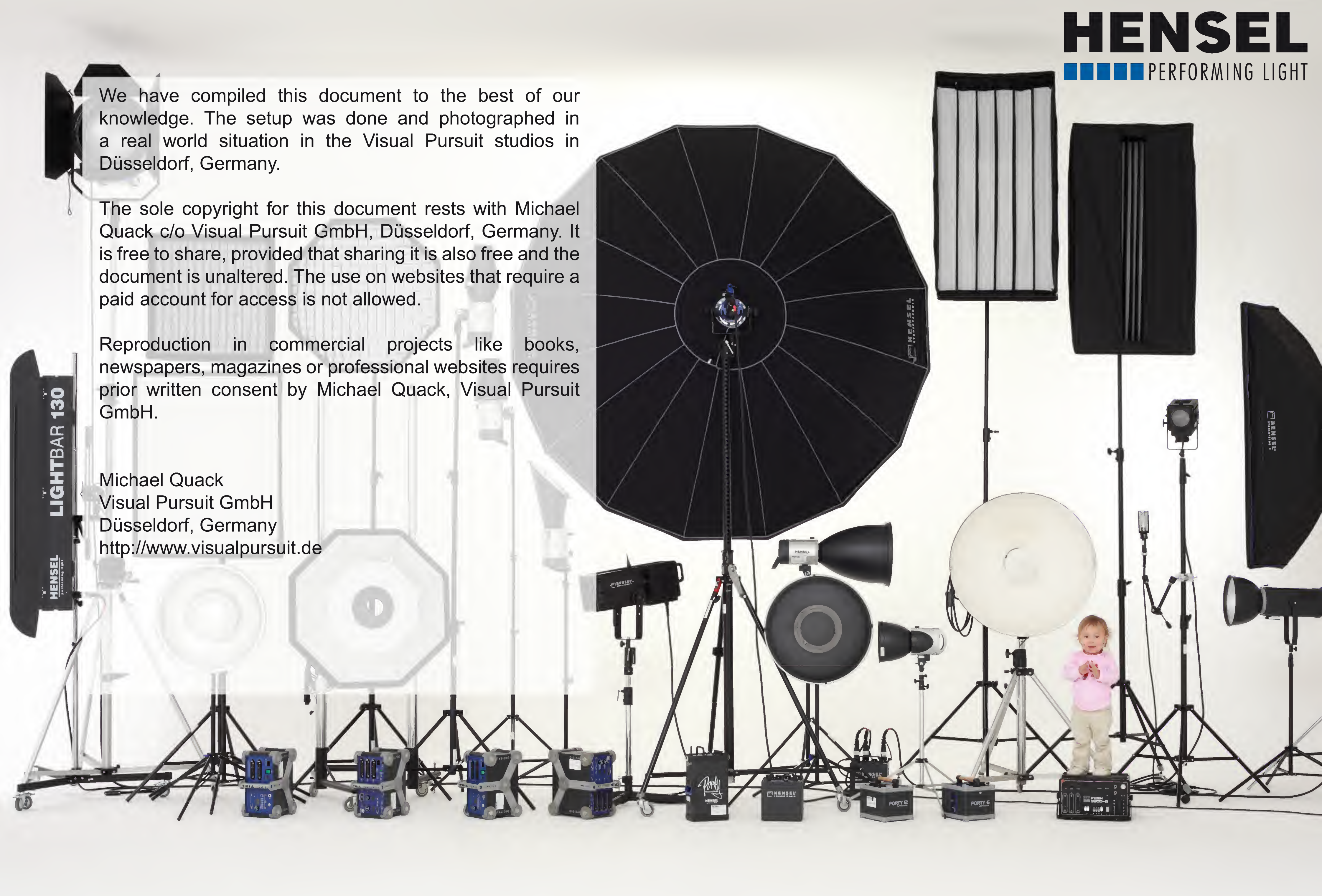
❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=5,6+1/10 ❸ f= 2,8+8/10

Hensel Grand 190 deep octaform softbox, front diffusor + inner baffle



Expert D 1000 compact head @ 354 Ws

❶ f=8,0 ❷ f=4,0+8/10 ❸ f= 5,6+1/10



We have compiled this document to the best of our knowledge. The setup was done and photographed in a real world situation in the Visual Pursuit studios in Düsseldorf, Germany.

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